

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 /071 W
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P R 211633Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1039
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3159

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: SOCIALISTS CAPITALIZE ON PCP STRONG-ARM TACTICS

REF: (A) LISBON 3055 (DTG 181715Z APR 77), (B) PARIS 11554
(DTG 201454Z APR 77)(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE SOCIALISTS, BY DOCUMENTING COMMUNIST EFFORTS
TO DISRUPT PS RALLY, HAVE EMBARRASSED THE COMMUNISTS
AND TAKEN THE WIND OUT OF CONTINUED PCP EFFORTS TO WOO THE
SOCIALISTS. THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF PCP-GENERATED VIOLENCE
CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH CUNHAL'S RECENT MORE SOPHISTICATED EFFORTS
AT IMAGE BUILDING IN PARIS AND WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS.
END SUMMARY.

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1. SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS SQUARE OFF: AT APR 19 PRESS
CONFERENCE, THE PS LEADERSHIP DEMANDED "FULL SATISFACTION"
FROM THE PCP FOR ITS ROLE IN DISRUPTING AN APR 14 SOCIALIST
PARTY RALLY IN SALVATERRA DE MAGOS, IN THE AGRICULTURAL
AREA EAST OF LISBON (REF A). THE SOCIALISTS CALLED FOR:
-- A FORMAL CONDEMNATION OF THE VIOLENCE;
-- A PUBLIC APOLOGY TO THE PS;

-- PUNISHMENT OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

THE SOCIALISTS CHARGED THAT THE INCIDENT REPRESENTED A "PULSE TAKING" BY COMMUNISTS OF THE RESOLVE OF THE SOCIALISTS AND THE AUTHORITIES TO RESIST A RENEWED PCP STRATEGY OF OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT MEASURES BY UNCONSTITUTIONAL MEANS. THE PROBE, THE PS STATEMENT CONTINUED, REQUIRED A FIRM RESPONSE THAT WOULD OVERWHELM ANY COMMUNIST EFFORT TO PURSUE ITS OBJECTIVES BY UNDEMOCRATIC MEANS. DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, EXCERPTS OF WHICH WERE CARRIED ON THE EVENING TV NEWS, THE SOCIALISTS BACKED UP THEIR CHARGES WITH TAPE RECORDINGS AND EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY, INCLUDING COMMENTS BY THE PS MAYOR OF SALVATERRA'S WIFE WHO APPEARED ON TV WITH A BIG BLACK EYE. PARTY SPOKESMAN ANTONIO REIS, IN EXPLAINING THE PS POSITION, NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE "LAST CHANCE" THE PCP WOULD BE GIVEN TO MEND ITS WAYS. IF IT DID NOT PROVIDE SATISFACTION, HE WARNED, A COMPLETE RUPTURE BETWEEN THE PARTIES WOULD FOLLOW.

2. PCP RETREATS: THE PCP POLITICAL COMMITTEE ISSUED A STATEMENT APR 20 "REGRETTING AND CONDEMNING" THE INCIDENTS AND THE "INCORRECT INVOLVEMENT" OF PCP MEMBERS. THE FACTS, THE STATEMENT WENT ON, DID NOT HOWEVER JUSTIFY THE "ARTIFICIAL PUMPING UP" OF THE INCIDENT BY THE PS LEADERSHIP. DEFENDING THE PCP ON TV, OCTAVIO PATO AFFIRMED THAT HIS PARTY WAS INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENTS TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY AND WAS PREPARED TO DO SO JOINTLY WITH THE SOCIALISTS.

3. PS NOT SATISFIED: SPEAKING FOR THE SOCIALISTS, JAIME CONFIDENTIAL

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GAMA RESPONDED THAT THE PCP STATEMENTS DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH. THE PCP, HE NOTED, FAILED EITHER TO ACKNOWLEDGE FORMAL RESPONSIBILITY OR TO TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST THE GUILTY PARTIES.

4. COMMENT: THE SOCIALISTS, BY DOCUMENTING COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO DISRUPT A RECENT PS RALLY, HAVE EMBARRASSED THE COMMUNISTS AND TAKEN THE WIND OUT OF CONTINUED PCP EFFORTS TO WOO THE SOCIALISTS. THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF PCP-GENERATED VIOLENCE CONTRACTS SHARPLY WITH CUNHAL'S RECENT MORE SOPHISTICATED EFFORTS AT IMAGE BUILDING IN PARIS AND WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS (REF B).
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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